

Ernie Fletcher
Governor



W. James Host
Secretary, Commerce Cabinet

KENTUCKY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Kent Whitworth, Executive Director

MEDIA ADVISORY

PROGRAM CHANGE
DR. TERRENCE ROBERTS TO SPEAK AT SYMPOSIUM

Marking 50th Anniversary of Supreme Court Decision
Brown v. Board of Education, Topeka, Kansas

"Little Rock Nine"

**Roberts is one of the nine black students to attend Little Rock's newly
desegregated Central High School in 1957.**

FRANKFORT, Ky. (March 22, 2004) – On March 30, Dr. Terrence Roberts will join Cheryl Brown Henderson as keynote speaker at the 12:15 p.m. luncheon that will take place during the symposium, "Unfinished Business: School Desegregation in Kentucky."

Due to circumstances beyond control, Linda Brown Thompson will not be speaking as previously noted.

As a 15-year-old eleventh grader, Roberts joined eight other students and became one of the first black students to attend a newly desegregated public high school in Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1957. The "Little Rock Nine," as they became known, endured the opposition of the governor of Arkansas and citizen mobs. President Eisenhower, called upon to enforce school desegregation following the Supreme Court decision, sent 1,000 members of the 101st Airborne Division of the United States Army to escort the nine students to school.

Dr. Roberts serves as co-chair of the master's in psychology program at Antioch College in Los Angeles. He is the founder and CEO of Terrence J. Roberts and Associates, a management consultant firm dedicated to improving human relations in the workplace. Roberts also serves as the official desegregation consultant for the Little Rock, Arkansas, school district and provides similar services to school districts nationwide. He has received numerous awards

including the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund Award, the Martin Luther King Jr. "Drum Major for Justice" Award and the Congressional Gold Medal.

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In 1998, the Kentucky Oral History Commission, which is administered by the Kentucky Historical Society, began a multi-year project called *Civil Rights Movement in Kentucky Oral History Project*. This project is a major statewide initiative developed to document, through oral history interviews, the struggle to end legal segregation in Kentucky between 1930 and 1975. To help advance the understanding of the history and legacy of the civil rights movement in Kentucky, the project's goal is to provide an extensive base of primary resources from which to develop educational programming to include video documentaries, curriculum materials, a symposium, a theatre performance piece presented at the Kentucky History Center and radio programs.

The Kentucky Historical Society, since 1836, has provided *connections to the past, perspective on the present and inspiration for the future*. KHS operates the Old State Capitol, Kentucky Military History Museum and its five-year-old headquarters, the Kentucky History Center. Since 1999, the \$30 million dollar History Center has welcomed almost **one million visitors**. For more information about the Kentucky Historical Society and its programs, visit the Web at <http://history.ky.gov> or call (502) 564-1792.